# University of Otago Research Theme: Health of Veterans, serving personnel and their families. Annual Colloquium 2013

PROGRAMME FOR TUESDAY – 3rd SEPTEMBER 2013		
The Dunedin club, Melville Street, Dunedin		
Time	Session	
11.00-12.00	Registration	
	Welcome	
SESSION 1	Veterans	
	Chair: - Andy Richardson	
12.00-12.30	Opening Address - Anne Campbell (Veterans Affairs New Zealand) - VANZ update	
12.30-13.00	Gerry Wright - We were there- the Royal New Zealand Navy and nuclear testing	
13.00-13.30	Stephen Clarke/Margaret Snow (Royal New Zealand Returned and Services Association) - Health and other needs of veterans	
13.30-14.00	Maria Dorsey (National Centre for Peace & Conflict Studies) - Reconciliation: the impact of veterans post war visits to Vietnam	
14.00-14.30	David McBride (Preventive and Social Medicine) - The Mortality and cancer experience of New Zealand Vietnam Veterans.	
14.30-15.00	James Conner (Research and Enterprise) - Identity, transformation and reconciliation: social and cultural interpretations of the return of the soldier.	
15.00-15.15	Afternoon tea	
	Chair: James Connor	
15.15-15.45	George Davis -Medical Orphans: masseuses and Jewish medical practitioners who passed through the Medical and Dental Schools prior to WWII	
15.45-16.15	Leo Schep (National Poisons Centre)- Latest developments in the toxicology of synthetic cannabinoids	
16.15-16.45	Environmental Health Risk Assessment and Chemical Exposure Guidelines for Deployed Military Personnel	
19.00 for 19.30	2013 Dinner - The Dunedin Club	

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PROGRAMME FOR WEDNESDAY- 4 <sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2013	
SESSION 2	Current Research Showcase
	Chair: David McBride
8.30-8.45	Maj Gen Dave Gawn (Chief of Army NZDF) - Welcome and opening remarks
8.45-9.15	Peter Nasveld (Centre for Military and Veterans Health, University of Queensland) - The ADF Middle East Area of Operations study
9.15-9.45	Annabel McGuire (Centre for Military and Veterans Health, University of Queensland) - the Australian Defence Force Family health study
9.45-10.15	Shyamala Nada-Raja (Preventive and Social Medicine) - Online psychological therapies for mental health and their relevance to the well-being of Veterans"
10.15-10.30	Morning Tea
	Chair: Darryl Tong
10.30-11.00	Tim Hopkins (485 Wing RNZAF) - Environmental Health Risk Assessment and Chemical Exposure Guidelines for Deployed Military Personnel
11.30-12.00	Brian Cox (Hugh Adam Cancer Epidemiology Unit) - Hospitalisation rates in Vietam veterans
12.00-12.30	Elspeth Gold – (Centre for Translational Cancer Research) Raising awareness of prostate disease in veterans
12.30-13.00	Lunch
13.00-13.30	Fred Daniel - (Montecillo Veterans Home and Hospital) - Ethos of service delivery to veterans' and dependants at Montecillo Veterans Home and Hospital.
13.30-14.00	Andy Richardson (Defence Technology Agency) - current research at the DTA
14.00 -	Discussion

## Biographical Notes on the Presenters in Military & Veterans Health Colloquium

#### **Dr Anne Campbell**

Dr Anne Campbell joined the Otago University Medical Company in 1977, qualified MB BCh from Otago in 1982 and transferred to the Regular Force in January 1984, commissioning into the Royal New Zealand Army Medical Corps in the rank of Captain. She has spent the majority of her career in the military, holding every senior position in the Army and then in Defence Health Services. The latter included an appointment in the rank of Brigadier as Director General Defence Health Services. She was the first woman in NZ to achieve this rank, the highest possible for a medical officer. She has had several deployments, to Papua New Guinea in Op SHADDOCK where she led a medical team in disaster relief in 1998, and East Timor where she served as a member of the Field Surgical Team in 2001, transitioning surgical capability to Slovakia. In February 2005 she deployed with a defence medical team, Op SUMATRA ASSIST, to assist Indonesia as a result of the earthquake and tsunami that struck the region in December 2004.

Her current role she is as Medical Advisor at Veterans' Affairs New Zealand, which is integrated into the New Zealand Defence Force. She enjoys escorting veterans to the lands where they served so many years ago on Commemorative events.

#### **Gerry Wright**

Gerry joined the navy in 1955 as a 16 year old Seaman Boy, Second Class. Four years later, after attending Operation Grapple, he went to the United Kingdom as an Upper Yardman for officer training.

As an officer Gerry served in many New Zealand ships and a British submarine. He had command of the patrol boat HAKU, training ship INVERELL and research ship TUI. He served in Malaysia during 'Konfrontasia' where he took part in the sinking of several enemy craft.

Gerry was the navy's first Principle Warfare Officer. In the latter role he was the Operations Officer in OTAGO during the Mururoa protest deployment in 1973.

In 1995 he went back at sea as Master Mariner to command several merchant ships plying the South Pacific region.

Gerry has published eleven books about the Navy and has more on the drawing board.

#### **Margaret Snow**

I spent four years in the WRENS in the UK before joining the Ministry of Defence as a civilian. I then moved to the Department of Social Security and worked in a number of offices in East Lancashire and East of London, with promotions to middle management levels. In 1991 I migrated to New Zealand and started work in the then Department of Social Welfare in the Disabled Persons Community Welfare Act section. I moved a year later into HQNZDF as a civilian in the Directorate of Defence Intelligence, leaving in early 1996 to head overseas to Karachi, Pakistan and thence to southern France. I returned to New Zealand in early 2002 and five months later started working for the Royal New Zealand Returned And Services Association assisting veterans and other ex-service men and women and widows and partners with their claims under the War Pensions Act 1954. During this period I finished my BA majoring in History and am currently undertaking a Navy related project to finish my Honours degree.

### **Maria Dorsey**

Maria Dorsey's interdisciplinary PhD research is currently being supervised by Professor Kevin Clements (Peace & Conflict Centre) and Associate Professor Neil Carr (Department of Tourism). Her research interests focus on the impact of post-war travel on attitudinal change of visitors and how this effects reconciliation and peace-building. Her educational background includes a BES in Educational and Counselling Psychology and a MS in Parks, Recreation and Tourism from the University of Missouri. Her previous work experience includes community outreach and resolving conflict within a private industry environment.

#### Dr David McBride.

Associate Professor David McBride's professional scope of practice lies in Occupational and Environmental Medicine, a clinical discipline of which Military Medicine is a sub-specialty. His clinical interests lie in the effects of physical agents (noise and vibration) chemical agents (particularly persistent organochlorine compounds and dioxins) and musculoskeletal disorders. His particular area of research expertise lies in Occupational Epidemiology and Biostatistics. He commissioned into the Royal Corps of Transport as a Volunteer in 1981. He was Senior Medical Officer to New Zealand Battalion Groups 3 and 5 in East Timor and to Task Groups CRIB 5 and 19, in Bamian Province, Afghanistan.

#### **Dr James Conner**

Dr James Conner is currently a Senior Enterprise Manager, Research and Enterprise, University of Otago, based in Wellington. His research/professional interests are varied and include: ancient history, public policy, political economy, security and defence studies, health studies, journalism, and various areas of psychology. He is married to Hinemoa and they have an adult son who is an art director for an advertising agency in Auckland.

#### **Associate Professor Peter Nasveld**

Associate Professor Nasveld is responsible for the coordination and management of a wide range of studies conducted through the Centre related to physical and mental health in areas such as injury associated with weight load carriage, evaluation of policy change in the areas of asthma and body mass index assessments, e-Health initiatives in mental health and dermatology and development of the Defence electronic health record. A/Professor Nasveld has also been a Clinical researcher and Chief Investigator for a range of epidemiological studies and clinical trials in a Defence environment, and was awarded the Surgeon General Australian Defence Medal for excellence in Defence related health research in 2006. Additionally, A/Professor Nasveld provides to the Centre the high level engagement and liaison driving extensive studies into the Health Outcomes associated with deployment of Defence personnel, roles which ensure the operationalisation of research activities within the Defence organisation.

#### **Dr Annabel McGuire:**



Dr Annabel McGuire is a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Military and Veterans' Health. Since her commencement at the Centre in 2007, Dr McGuire has played a leading role in some of the Centre's most acclaimed research projects, including the Deployment Health Surveillance Program and its component health studies of military personnel deployed to the Solomon Islands, East Timor and Bougainville. Most recently, Dr McGuire was the Chief Investigator for the Timor-Leste Family Study, the results of which were officially released in

September 2012. The study was the first of its kind in Australia and one of the largest in the world with more than 4,000 Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel, both current and ex-serving and their partners, taking part in the research.

### Dr Shyamala Nada-Raja:

Shyamala Nada-Raja is a Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Preventive and Social Medicine at Otago University. On completing her undergraduate and Master of Science degrees in experimental and cognitive psychology at Otago, she commenced her public health research training in violence prevention and completed a doctorate in 2001. Her research expertise is in the broad area of mental health/well-being, focussing on longitudinal and online psychological interventions for depression, self-harm, suicidality, violence, and positive development. From 1994, her work has been funded by the HRC, Ministry of Health, ACC, Lottery Health and the Community Trust of Otago. Shyamala's main publications are based on her research from the Dunedin Longitudinal Study and she is an investigator affiliated with the Centre for Research Excellence in Suicide Prevention, led by Professor Helen Christensen from the University of New South Wales, and funded by the NHMRC in Australia

#### **Dr Elspeth Gold:**

Dr Elspeth Gold is a lecturer in Anatomy at Otago University and an Otago University graduate. She spent several years working overseas before returning to Otago University in 2010. She is a lecturer in Anatomy department and also runs a prostate research lab. Her research focuses on the development of new tests to diagnose prostate cancer and new treatments for advanced prostate cancer.